



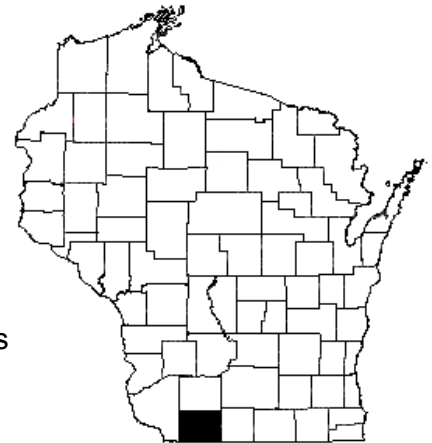
Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

Lafayette County

County characteristics

- 635 sq. mi., population 16,137 (2000 census)
- Lafayette County is in the "driftless" unglaciated area of the state; mostly former prairie and oak savanna; now extensively cultivated.
- Waters: Yellowstone Lake, an impoundment of 455 acres is the largest surface water, Pecatonica River and Galena River are major river systems in the county, and there are 58 named streams of which 18 are trout waters and 29 are smallmouth bass waters
- 2,972 licensed anglers and 2,614 hunters and trappers reside in Lafayette County



State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing

- 4,041 acres of state land within the Yellowstone State Wildlife Area. 5 other Wildlife properties and Natural areas totaling 250 acres, 15 miles of Pecatonica State Trail has fishing access to the Pecatonica River, Bonner Branch.

Our Wildlife and Fisheries lands are operated with license dollars. You can locate DNR properties for all your outdoor activities at:

http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html

Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you

- 1 Wildlife biologist, 1 Fisheries biologist, 1 Conservation Warden; 1 Lands & Facilities technician

- Staff members also serve portions of Green and Rock Counties

Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars

- Established an aggressive CWD management program in southwest Wisconsin (Lafayette County: over 1,000 deer sampled since the discovery of CWD in Wisconsin in 2002)
- Establish and maintain grassland and wetland habitat for ducks, pheasants, and other wildlife species on public as well as private lands. Preserve and restore prairie remnants on public and private lands.
- Conservation Wardens apprehended two non-residents who were setting illegal turtle traps in the Woodford Park area. The men admitted that they were selling the snapping turtles in Illinois. The subjects were charged with using illegal gear (*shown at right*), taking turtles without licenses, taking turtles during the closed season and being over the possession limit for snapping turtles.
- Yellowstone Lake, a fishery historically dominated by carp and bullheads, has become one of the best fisheries in southwest Wisconsin now dominated by walleye, bass, crappies, and catfish due to predator management and carp removal



- Establish and maintain warm and coldwater habitat improvement projects on area smallmouth bass and trout streams.
- Conservation Wardens and Yellowstone Lake State Park rangers arrested several subjects for overbagging fish. 3 subjects had 44 crappies over their collective limit, and several subjects were keeping game fish during the closed season and outside the established size limit.
- DNR personnel in Lafayette County investigated a fish kill on the Pecatonica River and Otter Creek where more than 9,500 dead fish were reported. This case remains under investigation.
- Established and maintained fisheries management program for Yellowstone Lake preventing future lake draw down.
- Monitor sportfisheries for stocking evaluations, population status, harvest recommendations, and habitat improvement.
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, as well as building and maintaining parking areas and initiating habitat development and maintenance projects.

County Conservation Snapshots

- 6 funded easements/public access sites on the Galena River, 12 boat launches, 3 disabled access fishing piers
- Wardens responded to 10 Hotline Complaints and responded to another 50 citizen generated complaints
- 8 Deer and Turkey registration stations set up to provide for 4 distinct seasonal registration needs
- 7 DNR license agents supported

Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary

- Yellowstone Lake is stocked with 900 muskellunge and 22,750 walleye every 2 years
- 26,000 fish are stocked into 16 streams. Species include brook trout, brown trout, and walleye
- An average 1,200 pheasant per year are stocked at Yellowstone Wildlife Area.
- More than 800 pheasant chicks are provided to the Fayette Rod and Gun Club which they raise



DNR Fisheries crew with walleyes from a 2004 fyke net survey on Yellowstone Lake

County Success Stories

- Since their reintroduction in the late 1980's, Lafayette County's turkey population has grown from an initial stocking of 45 turkeys to many hundreds. Hunter success is among the highest in Wis.
- Lafayette County enjoyed the state's first "Stewardship" land purchase for hunters and anglers, nearly doubling the size of the Yellowstone Wildlife Area. In 2004, the local Wildlife biologist received a national award for equestrian trail development that incorporates wildlife habitat and sound land management, while providing recreational opportunity on this property.

Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
 - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management

Want to Learn More? Go to dnr.wi.gov/invest

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